

63 Like, start, etc.

Verb + to-infinitive or -ing form

1 Like, love, prefer and hate



After **like**, **love**, **prefer** and **hate**, we can use either a to-infinitive or an -ing form. The meaning is the same.

Mrs Miles **likes to do/likes doing** parachute jumps.
 She **loves to look/loves looking** down at the fields below.
 We always **prefer to stay/prefer staying** in small hotels.
 I **hate to stand/hate standing** up while I'm eating.

But compare these two meanings of the verb **like**.

LIKE TO DO	LIKE DOING
<p>Like takes a to-infinitive when it means that we prefer to do something even though we may not enjoy it.</p> <p><i>I like to check my work carefully before I send it in.</i></p>	<p>Like usually takes an -ing form when we use it to talk about hobbies and interests.</p> <p><i>Claire likes skiing.</i> <i>I don't like swimming much.</i></p>

2 Would like, etc.

After **would like**, **would love**, **would prefer** and **would hate**, we use a to-infinitive but not usually an -ing form.

*I'd **like to do** a parachute jump one day. My sister **would love to work** as an artist.*
*Mark **would prefer to drive** rather than take the train. I'm glad I live here. I'd **hate to live** in a big city.*

Compare **would like** and **like**.

WOULD LIKE	LIKE
<p><i>I'd like to lie on the beach today. It's too hot to do anything else.</i></p> <p>I'd like means 'I want', but it is more polite (see Unit 52.2).</p>	<p><i>I like lying on the beach. I always spend my holidays sunbathing.</i></p> <p>I like means the same as 'I enjoy'.</p>

3 Start, intend, etc.

We can use either a to-infinitive or an -ing form after these verbs:

begin, **bother**, **continue**, **intend**, **propose** (= intend), **start**

*People **began to leave/began leaving** the theatre before the end of the play.*
*Rachel **didn't bother to do/bother doing** the washing-up.*
*Do you **intend to make/intend making** a complaint?*

The meaning is the same.

We do not usually have two -ing forms together.

*It was **starting to get** dark. NOT ~~It was starting getting~~ dark.*

Practice

A Like and would like 1-2

Write in the words. Begin *I like ...* or *I'd like ...*

Use these verbs: *buy, chase, drive, play, see*

Use these objects: *computer games, rabbits, the manager, this car, this tree*



◆ *I like playing computer games.*

- 1 3
- 2 4

B Like, love, prefer and hate 1-2

Complete the sentences using the words in brackets.

- ◆ Mark: I've always wanted to visit San Francisco.
Sarah: Me too. *I'd love to visit* (*I'd love*) it some time.
- 1 Harriet: Tom seems to enjoy watching football matches.
David: Yes, (*he loves*) United play.
- 2 Alex: I'm glad I don't work as late as Sarah does.
Laura: Me too. (*I wouldn't like*) such long hours.
- 3 Matthew: I think I'll go and see this new film.
Emma: Can I go with you? (*I'd like*) it, too.
- 4 Rachel: Do you want to come with me or wait here?
Vicky: (*I'd prefer*) with you if that's OK.
- 5 Laura: I think queuing is my least favourite activity.
Tom: I agree. (*I hate*)
- 6 Claire: Does Mark cook for you?
Sarah: No, not often. (*he doesn't like*)
- 7 Reporter: Have you ever flown in a hot-air balloon?
Mrs Miles: No, but (*I'd love*) in one someday.
- 8 Rachel: Did you say you're having your teeth looked at today?
Emma: Yes, (*I like*) them checked once a year.

C Start, intend, etc. 3

Complete this news report about a stolen taxi. Put in the to-infinitive or the -ing form of these verbs: *drive, go, lock, make, search*. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

Nathan Paisley, 25, has lost his taxi. It was stolen on Friday afternoon. 'I just went into the newsagent's for a moment,' said Nathan. 'I didn't bother *to lock* the car.'
Nathan started ¹ his own taxi only six months ago. 'I was just beginning ² a profit,' he said. 'I intend ³ on with my work as soon as I get my taxi back.' The police are continuing ⁴ for the stolen car.

1 Introduction

Henry and Claire are having dinner in a **quiet** restaurant. It's a **warm** evening. The food is **delicious**. Henry is feeling **romantic**.

An adjective is a word like **quiet**, **warm**, **delicious**, **romantic**. The word **quiet** describes the restaurant. It tells us what the restaurant is like.



2 Word order

There are two places where we can use an adjective: before a noun (*a quiet restaurant*) and after a linking verb (*feeling romantic*).

BEFORE A NOUN	AFTER A LINKING VERB
<p>Claire's got a new car.</p> <p>It was a dark night.</p> <p>This is good coffee.</p>	<p>Claire's car is new.</p> <p>It was getting dark.</p> <p>This coffee tastes good.</p> <p>Some linking verbs are: appear, be, become, feel, get, look, seem, smell, stay, taste</p>

We can use two or more adjectives together (see **Unit 105**).

It's a **quiet little** restaurant. Mike was wearing a **dirty old** coat.

We can put a word like **very** or **quite** before an adjective.

It was a **very dark** night. Henry was feeling **quite romantic**.

Very and **quite** are adverbs of degree (see **Unit 115**).

3 Adjectives used in one position only

We can use most adjectives in both positions – before a noun or after a linking verb. However, a few adjectives can go in one position but not in the other.

Here are some examples of adjectives which can only go before a noun.

Be careful crossing the **main** road. The **only** problem is I've got no money.

Chess is an **indoor** game. The **former** footballer now trains young players.

Some more examples are: **chief** (= main), **elder** (= older), **eldest** (= oldest), **inner**, **outdoor**, **outer**, **principal** (= main), **upper**

Here are some examples of adjectives which can only go after a linking verb.

At last the baby is **asleep**. Emma's two brothers are very **alike**.

I'm really **pleased** to see you. Vicky looked **ill**, I thought.

Some more examples are: **afraid**, **alone**, **ashamed**, **awake**, **alive**, **content** (= happy), **fine** (= in good health), **glad**, **unwell**, **well**

Practice

A Adjectives 1

Look at the pictures and write a phrase with an adjective and noun.

Use these nouns: *building, car, cat, chairs, music, power, skirt, weather*



long/short



hot/cold



traditional/modern



black/white



hydroelectric/solar



classical/pop



new/old



tall/low

- ◆ a long skirt
- ◆ cold weather
- 1
- 2

- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

B Adjectives 1-2

Underline all the adjectives in this description of a hotel.

This comfortable hotel with its pleasant gardens is ideal for people who want a quiet holiday, yet it is only a short distance from the highly popular attractions of the area. There are lovely views from every room. The atmosphere is very friendly, and the staff are always helpful. A holiday here is very good value for money. You can eat your meals at the hotel, where the food tastes marvellous. Or you can of course try some of the excellent local restaurants.

C Adjectives used in one position only 3

Look at the notes and write the song titles. Sometimes the adjective comes before the noun, and sometimes you need to use *is* or *are*.

- ◆ your sister / elder Your elder sister
- ◆ this boy / alone This boy is alone
- 1 the world / asleep
- 2 my desire / chief
- 3 my heart / content
- 4 the thing to remember / main
- 5 the night / alive
- 6 secrets / inner
- 7 the girl for me / only